

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 130828Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8787

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY RP ID

SUBJ: FURTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT ON TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

REF: A. KL 0197

B. KL 0143

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIALS APPEARING IN MALAY AND CHINESE PAPERS IN LAST FEW DAYS INDICATE GOM FEELS REACTION NECESSARY TO INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK'S STATEMENTS THAT TRIPARTITE SUMMIT WILL BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR, AS WELL AS TO ISLAMIC SECRETARY-GENERAL AL-TOHAMY'S INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE PROBLEM. ON BASIS OF EDITORIALS AND OTHER PRESS REPORTS, GOM CONTINUES PUBLICLY TO AVOID ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE DISSIDENCE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADHERES TO LINE THAT IT IS INTERNAL GOP MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS FULL TRANSLATION OF EDITORIAL ENTITLED "NO MALAYSIAN - PHILIPPINE DISAGREEMENT" THAT APPEARED IN MALAY-LANGUAGE "BERITA HARIAN" JAN. 13: BEGIN TEXT:

IS THERE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES? IN OUR VIEW THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO ASEAN NATIONS, BUT FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES HAVE TRIED TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT ONE EXISTS.

MALAYSIA HAS NO REASONS TO ARGUE WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND, ON THE CONTRARY, HAS TRIED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THE PHILIPPINES ONCE CLAIMED SABAH AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER ACCUSED MALAYSIA OF AIDING MUSLIM REBELS IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, BUT THE LATTER IS A FILIPINO OPINION ONLY.

ON THE CONTRARY, MALAYSIA NEVER CLAIMED FILIPINO TERRITORY AND HAS NOT AIDED THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REBELS. THUS, FROM THE MALAYSIAN STANDPOINT, THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

TUN RAZAK IS SCHEDULED TO MEET PRESIDENT MARCOS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND THE THREE, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES, ARE ALSO GOOD FRIENDS. THUS THEIR MEETING IS MORE FOR CONSIDERING COMMON MATTERS OF INTEREST RATHER THAN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES WHICH DO NOT EXIST.

THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS IS WEIGHING THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE PROBLEM IS SIGNIFICANT BUT WE FEEL THAT THE PRIME OBJECTIVE IS (FOR HIM) TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THAT PROBLEM SO THAT IT CAN BE SOLVED. AND WE BELIEVE THAT MALAYSIA AS WELL AS INDONESIA IS READY TO ASSIST THE PHILIPPINES IN ANY WAY THAT IS DESIRED.

MALAYSIA IS ALWAYS READY TO SHOW GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES AND WE BELIEVE THE SAME TO BE TRUE ON THE PART OF THE PHILIPPINES. THUS, TO DISCUSS A PROBLEM IS NOT DISAGREEMENT, AT LEAST IN THE MALAYSIAN VIEW, IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO NATIONS. END TEXT.
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3. ON JAN. 10, DAILY "SIN PIN JIH PAO", IN FIRST RECENT COMMENT THAT HAS APPEARED IN LOCAL CHINESE PRESS, SAID IN PART: "THE PHILIPPINES HARBOR A MISUNDERSTANDING TOWARD OUR COUNTRY BECAUSE IT CHARGED THAT ELEMENTS IN THE MALAYSIAN STATE OF SABAH ARE HELPING MUSLIMS IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE ISLANDS OF MINDANAO AND SULU IN A REBELLION AGAINST THE MANILA GOVERNMENT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, PHILIPPINES INTERNAL

ADMINISTRATION IS ITS OWN AFFAIR, BUT THE MUSLIM PROBLEM HAS DRAWN MUCH ATTENTION FROM ALL MUSLIM COUNTRIES WHICH, ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT SETTLED AND HAVE INTERVENED TO HELP THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, NOT INTERFERING IN ITS AFFAIRS." EDITORIAL WENT ON THAT, WHEN TRIPARTITE SUMMIT IS HELD, IT WILL BE IN CONTEXT OF POSTERING ASEAN COOPERATION IN PURSUIT OF OBJECTIVES OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND NEUTRALITY, AND TO "DISSOLVE" ALL MISUNDERSTANDINGS. EDIT CONCLUDED: "WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS ADMIRES THE FIRM AND COURAGEOUS SPIRIT OF PRIME MINISTER TUN RAZAK, AND 'FOR A HERO TO RESPECT ANOTHER HERO', THE TRIPARTITE SUMMIT WILL NATURALLY RESULT IN GOOD TO ASEAN AS WELL AS TO ALL SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT THIS TRIPARTITE SUMMIT WILL BE ONE REFLECTING UNITY."

4. COMMENT: "BERITA HARIAN", WHICH IS PART OF GOVT-OWNED "NEW STRAITS TIMES" GROUP, NORMALLY REFLECTS FOREIGN MINISTRY THINKING CLOSELY IN EDITORIALS ON INTL QUESTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, IT UNLIKELY THAT "SIN PIN" EDITORIAL WAS DIRECTLY INFLUENCED BY GOM, BUT RATHER TOOK ITS CUE FROM "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" EDITOGNGL LAST WEEK (REF A). OUR MONITORING OF MALAYSIAN PRESS DURING INDON FONMIN MALIK'S VISIT TO MANILA AND ISLAMIC SEC-GEN AL-TOHAMY'S ROUND-ROBIN VISITS REFLECTS CONTINUING GOM AVOIDANCE OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS WITH SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE PROBLEM AND REEMPHASIS OF ITS VIEW THAT PROBLEM MUST IN FIRST INSTANCE BE RESOLVED BY GOP AND MARCOS.

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